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INDIANS AT • WORK



• MARCH 15, 1934 •

A NEWS SHEET FOR INDIANS
AND THE INDIAN SERVICE

OFFICE • OF • INDIAN • AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.



I N D I A N S A T W O R K

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The first Plains Indian Congress is ended. Some of the Interior Department's staff are now on their way to the Congress of the Northwestern tribes; others, to the Congress of the Southwestern tribes. The Oklahoma and the Wisconsin and Minnesota Indian Congresses will then be held.

Official delegates numbering one hundred and ninety-eight, hundreds of unofficial delegates, from eighteen major jurisdictions and tribes, worked with concentration through four days and much of four nights at Rapid City. Sunlight gleamed through mild air in these four days, and the great tide of wind rolled down from The Black Hills, the Siouxs' paradise, torn from this Plain's tribe, in violation of treaty, so few years ago. But the delegates held their gaze inward to the problems which had brought them together.

Upon themselves -- and not in stageplay, but in grim fact -- the decision of their own fate was being cast. I believe that every Indian had been penetrated by this fact be-

fore the Congress terminated.

Readers of INDIANS AT WORK have before this time received the Wheeler-Howard Bill. They will appreciate that the bill is of necessity burdened with technical features; and it involves a re-casting of Indian administration, of the Indians' economic basis and, potentially, of their social condition. Nearly every delegation which came to Rapid City had heard wild rumors of the bill; before leaving their homes, they had barely had time to receive copies of it. They spoke many different languages. They moved under the shadow of many betrayals of past years -- betrayals whose present consequences are matters of their daily experience. Could they become unafraid and realistic; could they free their intelligences to deal with complicated and technical issues, during this brief four days? Suppose they had been a book-learning, sophisticated white assembly?

It is the printed proceedings (to be available within a week) and the further deliberations that will now go forward among the home constituencies, which will tell how the Indians met their situation. The proceedings tell not the whole story; for much of the boldest probing of issues by the Indians themselves took place in the unrecorded meetings of

separate delegations, freed from the drag of many simultaneous interpretations. I here report the impression which was shared by missionaries, newspapermen and the Government men and women at the Congress.

That impression was one of a gradually gathering but, before the end, a deep and strong movement of the human spirit and of applied intelligence. Readers can hardly be given a realization of that thing which awakened among the white on-lookers a rising excitement. These Indians had brought to the meeting a repressed but intense intellectual life. Now, before our eyes, hour by hour, that dynamic quality and those old, long thoughts were emerging into liberty, into practical application and into a resumed adventure. "Striving to save their own souls, and their comrades' homeward way." This line from Virgil came to mind; and another from a disciple of Virgil: "With thee still the world-soul's onset goes."

Mr. Stewart is reporting some of the more tangible immediate results or discoveries of the Congress.

JOHN COLLIER,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

THE PLAINS INDIAN CONGRESS

By James M. Stewart

Chief, Land Division, Indian Service

The Plains Indian Congress held March 2 - 5, both inclusive, at Rapid City, South Dakota was for the purpose of explaining before eighteen distinct tribal councils, details of the Wheeler-Howard general Indian bill.

The Indians Denounce the Allotment System

One of the startling reactions of all the councils and other Indians assembled, was their unanimously favorable view of - in fact, their desire for - those portions of the bill dealing with allotments of land in severalty.

It has been said generally by people in the Service and outside - that Indians educated to the allotment system could not be induced or persuaded to depart from that system.

The Indian Congress very decidedly brought out the fact that the Indians gathered there have for some time past not

only realized the evils which that system had brought and still was still working upon them - but that they were eager for something to be done to prevent further waste and loss of their lands from that source.

No dissenting voice was heard in regard to the provisions in the bill stopping further allotment, issuance of fee patents, or sales of heirship lands.

On the contrary the Indians appeared to be very strongly in favor of these sections of the bill and were also strongly in favor of continuing the trust on their allotments forever.

Self-Government Is Favored When Misunderstandings Are Removed

It was evident at the beginning of the Congress that the assembled Indians did not understand the self-government

portion of the bill - this lack of understanding was due mainly to the short time they had had previously to study the subject

matter - and in addition, the misunderstanding was the result of erroneous construction and mis-information which had been given them locally.

However, as the full significance of the self-govern-

ment section began to open up to them - the result of careful and patient explanation - their attitude completely changed to one of deep interest and growing favor, until it became an absorption with them.

Educational Provision And Indian Court Favored

As to the educational part of the bill - this was re-

ceived with favor - as was also the Indian Court portion.

The Indians Decide For Themselves

No definite commitment was given - nor was any asked of the Indians - as to whether or not they favored the bill, but their final reactions were generally unmistakably favorable to the full bill, with certain suggested amendments. The most impressive thing about the whole Congress was the extremely intelligent understand-

ing the Indians have not only of their past and present affairs, but of the scope of the bill, once their contents were explained. Indeed, so great did their concern become during the last day, that everyone felt that the Congress might have been continued another week without flagging interest.

The Congress Was A Success

To sum up, the Congress was a tremendous success, for the Indians, the Government and for those genuinely concerned with Indian future welfare.

A few of the tribal councils in attendance were in favor of the bill as drawn; the majority, however, indicated a desire to take the explanation given home to their people for deliberation and further study (which was what we hoped they would do) and later let us know their views.

As a result of this Congress - ground has been gained which will never be lost; these Indians are now really taking action, not only for their own immediate benefit but for the future Indian generations.

Heretofore, all they could do was think. No action was possible, for no tangible goal was within sight. They have a goal now - this present bill. If promptly followed up in the field, this legislation will receive the Indians' irresistible support.

THE WHEELER-HOWARD BILL

There follow below the main provisions of the Wheeler-Howard Bill, which has as its object the constructive reorganization of the present system of administration of Indian affairs. The February 15 issue of INDIANS AT WORK carried a more detailed explanation of the measure. Copies of the bill itself will be sent to those who request them.

The Wheeler-Howard bill (S.2755; H.R.7902) strikes at the two chronic diseases of Indian administration: (1) land wastage through the allotment system; (2) federal absolutism which deprives the Indians of all voice in the management of their affairs.

The allotment system - a legalized maladministration of Indian lands - has swept away two-thirds of the Indian lands in fifty years. It has created more than 100,000 landless and pauperized Indians. The absolutist power of the Indian Office has degraded Indian institutions and has put nothing in their place. Pauperization and absolutism have made the Indians peons.

This bill seeks to lift them out of peonage. By revoking the allotment system and by making Indian lands henceforth inalienable, it checks the further destruction of the Indian estate. It permits the consolidation of Indian allotments, especially of grazing and forest lands. Thus it will bring the crazy-quilt of land ownership, now existent on many reservations, into condition for orderly use. It permits the purchase of land for landless stranded Indian groups, and provides community ownership of grazing lands and forests as a condition to intelligent

management.

The bill would permit the establishment of Indian municipal self-government. It would progressively turn over to the Indian communities many functions now performed by the Indian Office, and provide for the education of Indians in the technical and administrative arts necessary to perform these functions. It would replace Federal dictatorship by planned cooperation between the Federal government and organized, responsible communities protected by a special Court of Indian Affairs.

This program will ultimately save the Government millions now being spent in a sterile administration that can never solve the Indian problem because it denies the Indians responsible participation. This bill fits into the Administration's program for intelligent land use, and it puts into effect for Indians the Administration's principle of guaranteeing to underprivileged groups the right to organize for self-protection and common welfare. In brief, it seeks to transform the Indians from a traditional liability into a national asset.

* * * * *

The Other Indian Congresses. As INDIANS AT WORK goes to press word comes that a highly successful meeting has been held to discuss the Wheeler-Howard Bill with the Northwestern Tribes at Chemawa, Oregon - March 8 and 9. Assistant Commissioner Zimmerman presided over this congress. Commissioner Collier is proceeding to the Southwest where the All Pueblo Council is planned for March 15 at Santo Domingo, New Mexico. The Navajo Council meeting is set for March 12 and 13 at Fort Defiance; the Southern Arizona Indians will convene at Phoenix March 15 and 16; the Mission and Yuma Indians at Riverside, California March 17 and 18.

AS A NEWS WRITER SAW THE PLAINS INDIAN CONGRESS

The following colorful account of the Plains Indian Congress was written by Mr. Max Stern, who covered the meeting for the Scripps-Howard newspapers.

"....In a pow-wow unique in history Indian Commissioner John Collier and his staff of experts are explaining the Wheeler-Howard Bill, a measure that seeks to abolish Indian land abuses of two centuries, restore to landless Indians their lost holdings, provide the beginnings of home rule, conserve their dwindling culture, re-write their judicial system.

"Here are six hundred delegates from twenty-three plains tribes of eight states, those most affected by the allotment system which the reform bill abolishes. They have come in their autos and buses from as far as a thousand miles away - Flatheads, Crows, Cheyennes, Blackfeet from Montana; Chippewas from Turtle Mountain near the Canadian line; Arapahoes, Mandanes and Shoshones from Wyoming; Winnebagoes from Nebraska; Sioux from the Dakotas. Some are young ...many are elders, some have brought their wives. A few are garbed in blankets and feathers, most of them look like American farmers. Among them are the sons and grandsons of many a famous Indian chief. Young Red Tomahawk, son of the Indian who killed Sitting Bull, acts as the Sioux interpreter. All sitwith patient faces as Commissioner Collier explains a bill some of them only half understand and others more than half fear. Here, for the first time, the Indian Bureau is offering them more land, more liberty, more self-determination. Some are afraid of being cast out on their own.

"'For a long time the buffalo gave us everything,' said Max Big Man, a Crow dressed in a rainbow serape and moccasins. 'Buffalo gave us clothes, shelter, meat. Now buffalo is gone, white man is our buffalo. We don't want him to leave us.'

"Commissioner Collier explained that the bill does not cast the Indians loose or change their status as wards, but enables them to band together to save their own lands, run their local affairs, borrow money.

"'The United States is honorable, intelligent, powerful,' Commissioner Collier said. 'No reason why it should go on disgracing itself in Indian matters. President, Secretary Ickes, Indian Bureau

have determined that the time has come to stop wronging you Indians, and to re-write the cruel and stupid laws that rob you and crush your family lives. Now is the time of destiny for the Indians. If you use your brains and wills you can get justice now. You may not be able to in a few years."

* * * * *

WHAT SOME OF THE INDIANS SAID

"This is the first time we have ever been offered a voice in the laws that govern us. Indians will rejoice in this opportunity to run their local affairs." Grab Wolf, elder of the Grosventre Tribe.

"The old way leads to the end of the trail. We can lose nothing by trying the new way." Edward Quick Bear, Rosebud Sioux.

"If what is told us is true, this is the Indians' salvation. Let us call upon the Great Spirit to make it so." Rides-at-the-Door, elder of the Blackfeet.

"Something must be done. The better part of our reservation now is owned by whites." John Azure, Turtle Mountain.

"Our 800,000 acres have dwindled to 25,000. Nothing could be worse than the old way." Albert Hart, Nebraska Winnebagoes.

"The allotment system has been reaching into the Indians' pockets, taking their land, everything but the soles of their shoes. I believe that, for the first time, the Government comes to us as a friend." Charles Blackbird, Grosventre.

"I have heard there is one white man that would always fight for the Indians. Today I think I see him. He has a program and it is a good program." The Boy, Grosventre.

"We Indians have had very few leaders, for your white man's bureaucracy that has robbed us of so many things has also robbed us of our initiative." Sam LaPoint, Sioux World War veteran.

"While the white man gives us education, we shall have something to give him. The bill's encouragement to Indian art and culture - our thoughts and dreams of a thousand years - will make our hopes burn brighter. It will lift our heads toward a happier future." Henry Roe Cloud, Winnebago educator.

INDIANS AND SAMOANS - A CONTRAST

A striking contrast between the policy used toward the Indian in the past and that adopted toward another primitive race is brought out in a paper sent the Office on Ancient And Modern Law In Samoa, written by Mr. Frank Midkiff, President of the Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, Hawaii. Of the alienation of Samoan lands, Mr. Midkiff writes,

Except for government uses, no native land may become alienated or possessed by a non-native (non-natives are all with less than three-fourths aboriginal Samoan blood). No mortgage or agreement that would end in depriving a native of land is legal. Lands may not be leased for cutting of timber or working of minerals, and no lease may be for a period exceeding forty years. A native who sells or disposes of his land is liable to fine not to exceed \$200 or may forfeit to the government all land so sold or improperly leased. The non-native convicted of such attempt to

alienate land shall lose all improvements erected or made and all payments made in process of purchasing or unlawfully leasing.

The government regards itself as trustee of the Samoans' land, and preserves the land for permanent possession of the natives. It and its usufructs are always to belong to the Samoans.

This provision is in keeping with ancient Samoan law. The chief really owned the land but all he could do with it was to divide it for use among his people.

This attitude of the Government, Mr. Midkiff writes, is founded on a conscious effort to preserve the ancient customs of the Samoans and to perpetuate the social intent of these customs in modern law. How different has been the treatment of the Indian - whose lands and culture have been made the object of such long assault!

THE LEADER CAMPS AT YAKIMA AND FORT APACHE

What are the camps for training Indians in forestry and range management doing? Who are enrolled in them? What courses are given in them, what methods of combined work and study are pursued? What types of men are the enrollees? How do they live? These questions are answered by following excerpts taken from reports from two of the "Leader" groups - that at Yakima and that at Fort Apache.

Mr. Percy Melis, Director of the Leader Camp at Fort Simcoe, on the Yakima Agency, Washington, sends the Office this account of the men and work in his unit:

Fifty-one men are on the roll, from eleven reservations and a larger number of tribes. There were eleven full-blood Indians, and forty others varying in degree of Indian blood from seven-eighths to one-sixteenth. The ages of the men spread from eighteen years to forty-six with a fair distribution throughout, except in the forties and late thirties. The educational background shows an equal disparity, with a number of only sixth grade scholastic training, and six men who have attended accredited colleges from one to four years...

The men had reported at camp by the evening of January 7 and on the morning of January 8 they were at work, some of them on telephone line construction, some on construction of a

large warehouse for the storage of machinery and other equipment, and quite a large number on miscellaneous details having to do with the further rehabilitation and sanitation of the Fort Simcoe plant. Through the cooperation of the Superintendent and the staff of the Yakima Agency and the help of the regular Emergency Conservation Work personnel, suitable quarters and class rooms had already been provided in an abandoned dormitory building of the former Indian school located at historic old Fort Simcoe. Lights and running water had been installed in the building, heating stoves were set up, and tables and benches to serve as **class room** furniture were practically completed. A kitchen and dining room had been established in a nearby building.

Both Study and Practice

In order to make the most effective use of both the three-fourths hired time allocated to production activities, and the one-fourth set aside for instructional purposes, it was decided to hold class room work on three afternoons per week when practi-

For the purposes of work details the men were divided into six groups, each under the leadership of one of the older and more experienced men; while for class room, the courses now being given are segregated into two sections. This makes two



The Entire "Student Body" Of The Leader Camp At Fort Simcoe, Yakima

cable. This gives the men freedom to devote their entire attention during the class room session to the subject matter under discussion, without the disturbing consciousness of having to go out into the weather at the close of the period. This division of time is also of advantage to the production activities, particularly where the men must travel long distances to their work.

classes of about 25 men each, which appears to be about the maximum size in which free and open discussion can be effectively obtained.....Considerable evening work is being planned for volunteer groups which have manifested a special interest in subjects for which adequate time is not available during regular class periods.

The Subjects Chosen By The Men

Every effort was made early in the program to determine the

major interests and needs of the men and they were urged to offer

suggestions as to the organization of the instructional work. Good response was obtained with respect to courses desired and it was found that their interests covered every phase of forest work, from fire control lookout to lumber grading, with a rather heavy emphasis on road building and the various types of forest engineering.....

In order to meet this desire of the large number of men especially interested in road work, a special course was organized for volunteer attendance two evenings each week. In this class particularly good discussion has been obtained and by use of blackboard demonstrations

some very practical work has been presented.....

Mr. Newton's short course in telephone work was begun on January 20 and was completed January 30. This course was so well organized and so ably presented that it merits especial commendation. It was divided into regular lecture and laboratory periods and amply demonstrated the effectiveness of having the proper equipment in order to correlate theory and practice. This course shares with Mr. Moffat's later presentation of timber sale administration, the distinction of developing and maintaining the greatest interest and enthusiasm among the men.

Work Done

Formal instruction has now been completed in Fire Control, Telephone Work, Beetle Control, and Timber Sale Administration. These have been short courses, but the instruction in Forest Engineering and Road Construction will be continued with as much time devoted to them as is practicable. Brief courses in Range Management, Elements of Log Scaling, Records and Record Keeping and some special work in cruising and mapping are also definitely planned.

The decision to attempt to cover such a broad field was made after a full consideration of the possibility of having to touch each phase of the work very lightly, but, after six

weeks of effort, I am sure that the instruction has been more effective than if a more concentrated program had been devoted to a more limited field.

Production work that has been carried on by the men in this camp can be divided into four classifications, namely: warehouse construction, road construction, telephone line construction, and road surveying. Work details have been arranged so as to rotate the men on the various jobs and also with a view toward favoring special interests or adaptability of the men. Satisfactory progress has been made in each of these activities.

From Fort Apache comes another report on Leader Camp activities, sent the Office by Mr. W. B. Macmillan, Director of the group that is located there. Mr. Macmillan says,

A check-up physical examination was given to all men in camp on Friday, February 2, to insure proper physical condition. The men were all in good physical condition except two who had previously been taken

instructed in pacing and finding areas by pacing.....

Following instruction in pacing, part of the men were turned over to Mr. E. A. Johnson to work on constructing check



Students At The Fort Apache Leader Camp Construct Check Dams On Erosion Control Projects

to the hospital.....

Since no compasses had yet been received the Director borrowed from the local forestry office an assortment of compasses and gave the men instruction in their use. Following this those who had had instruction in pacing were started out on practical work with compass in five crews of six men each, to run a traverse around the Erosion Control Project area. The balance of the group was

dams of various types for erosion control. Mr. Johnson divided his men into three crews and had each crew build three different types of check dams. The traverse work required part of three days. As soon as the first compass crews finished, new crews were organized and sent out to run the same traverse, and the first crews placed under Mr. Johnson for work on the different types of check dams.....

Each crew was required to put in certain types of check dams, also to make a traverse around the control area by use of compass and pacing, then each to make a plat of his traverse, and he was shown how to close such traverse by a simple but accurate method. By thus giving the men an opportunity to follow through an entire project their interest was keenly aroused. Many of the men have gone back several nights after supper to work on their maps. As the lecture work and discussions in forestry and grazing proceed, all of the various jobs that have been worked on by the men will be tied in to their proper places in a well formulated policy of range and forest management.....

During the remaining weeks of the Leader Camp we anticipate trying to cover a

number of subjects; these will include telephone work under the direction of Mr. F. M. Newton, which will begin next week; thinning work in dense stands of yellow pine reproduction; inspection of the sawmill and logging operations of the Cady Lumber Company at McNary; and continuation of instruction in grazing, and several fields of forestry.

With a group so large, having so diversified interests, educational backgrounds and ages, it is hard to estimate the progress the men are making in the work. Those with the better educational qualifications are taking hold of the theoretical work very quickly. Others not so qualified are better adapted to the practical work first, followed by theory to clarify the problems of the job.....

* * * * *

THE EXTENSION OF THE IECW PROGRAM

Indian Emergency Conservation Work in its present form is to be extended until March 31, 1935, subject to appropriation of funds for the continuance.

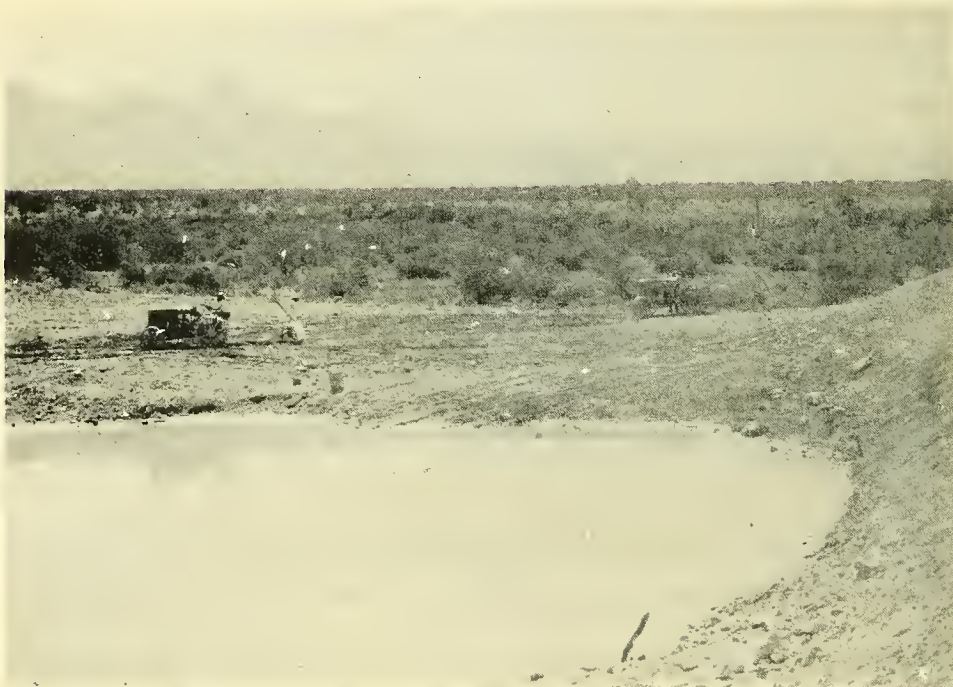
This information has already been sent to the Field in IECW Circular Letter No. 75.

Further notification will be sent to the Field when definite assurance as to funds has been received.

BABOQUIVARI IS TAKEN

Anonymous

In the very midst of the Sells Indian Reservation in southern Arizona is the famous Baboquivari, a towering mountain peak of pinkish granite, which sends up a thumb-like spire a thousand feet above the surrounding range. For many years the



Little Tucson Charco, Baboquivari In The Background. This Is One Of The Twenty-Seven Reservoirs Which Can Be Seen From The Peak. Built Under IECW.

foresters in this area have looked up at this lofty prominence and said, "What a place for a lookout tower!" Particularly have they wished for such a lookout during the parching heat of

the dry summers, when fire hazard is greatest. But how to get it built? That was the problem.

For a long time this peak was practically inaccessible. There it has stood as a challenge to the adventurer who would conquer its lofty height and scale the rock wall on the final stretch. An occasional tale would be told of some hardy hiker who had reached the summit. One story had it that a fire on the peak could be seen from the Indian villages in

Old Mexico. Another was that from its top one could see the waters of the Gulf of California on a clear day. And so the tales went. And there was always a little group of people in and about Tucson who would stick to their story that they had actually been on top and had left their names there in a bottle.

Camp "Babo" - And Fifty Young Men

When Indian Emergency Conservation Work came along it was determined by Superintendent J. S. Elliott and Forester V. D. Smith of the Sells Reservation that their long hopes of an adequate lookout on this prominent peak would at last be realized. Their first work was the establishment of an Indian Emergency Conservation Work camp at the base of the mountain. Camp "Babo" it was named, and fifty young men were housed there. This camp was under supervision of an Indian, young Louis Marago, student at the University of Arizona and an all-round fine fellow.

Step followed step in the project, rapidly and logically. First, a spring was developed near the camp site which served the men while they worked and which will remain as a permanent water supply for the forester's cabin under construction there. Next, under the able leadership of Group Foreman Walter C. Coe, a truck trail was constructed

connecting "Babo" with the reservation road. Then a "horse and man trail" was built up the mountain side to the foot of the stone peak. About half-way up this second trail a "spike" camp was established. Louis Marago supplied this camp with hot food from the "Babo" camp, packed up the trail on the backs of a string of mules.

While this was going on, a crew of Indians under the direction of Harris H. Roberts hunted the hillsides for indications of water. They succeeded in developing a series of springs and hillside seeps into a comprehensive system of stockwater storage tanks and troughs, located at such points that they will permit division of the cattle range into controlled areas. This of course was in the way of providing an adequate set-up for future range management, of preventing over-grazing, and adding useful areas to the available range. While this was being done

a third crew was busy building drift fences to define these

areas.

The Final Drive - Stone Landings And Redwood Stairs

Then, at the base of the granite spire, another spike camp was set up. Thereupon Camp "Babo" was abandoned, except as a base of supplies, and the fi-

for the stairways had to be transported up the trail to the base of the peak by pack trail. From there it has been carried, one plank at a time, on the backs of the men. Ma-



Indian Crew Under IECW Building Trail Up Baboquivari To Reach The New Fire Lookout

nal stretch of this drive toward the top commenced. With hammers, powder and tool steel the Indian Emergency Conservation Work men have carved a series of stone landings up the side of this giant granite monolith. To scale the sheer heights, four flights of redwood stairs have been constructed, reaching up from one precipitious landing to the next. On and up they have gone, until now the completed trail reaches clear to the summit. Baboquivari is taken.

terial for the lookout house went up the same way - by human pack train - door, windows and roofing, and finally a can of paint. What a task it has been!

On July 17, 1933 the trail was started and on December 15, 1933 the first members of the crew scaled the last stretches of the peak. Frank Mitchell, a Yuma Indian who has been with the project from its inception, and three of his associates reached the summit on that day. They discovered that many of the stories they had heard about the peak were true. Others had been

But it was not easy. Material

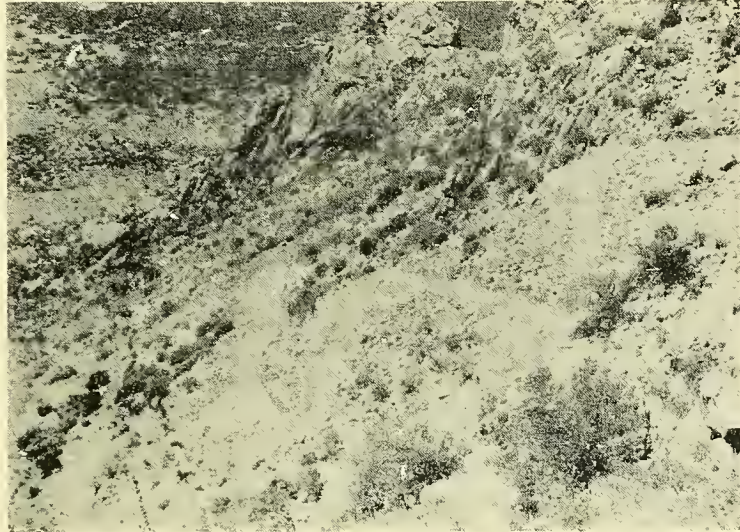
there before them. There were names in tin cans and in bottles, and a stone pile, erected to commemorate past ventures, gave in-

disputable evidence that there had been those who had climbed before.

What They Found On The Mountain Top

Here is the story as it is preserved on bits of paper found in the various receptacles.

to the peak on July 28, 1916, taking Prof. George F. Freeman and Jose Alvarez, a Papago In-



A Section Of The Trail That Indians Built Up Baboquivari, Showing Steepness.

Dr. R. H. Forbes, of Tucson, was the first white man to set foot on top of Mount Baboquivari. He scaled it by means of climbing hooks, and reached the summit at 2:00 p.m. on July 12, 1898. By means of a rope which he secured to a tree, Dr. Forbes then helped his companion and guide, Jesus Montoya, a Mexican miner, to the summit. These two men remained there overnight and built a fire which was seen from Tucson and the surrounding country as far south as Altar in Old Mexico. Dr. Forbes made a second climb

dian guide, with him. Three years later he made his third climb to the top.

Others have climbed the peak since. One Jack Herford has been a guide to several parties, among them two "dudes" - Mr. Sidney F. Patterson, Mrs. Maryelker Modjeska Patterson and their servant, one Palmer Boggs. Another interesting entry in the log book is written with a cinder. This is signed by W. Soller, E. E. Warner and A. H. Burns and reads, "no have got pencil".

But the most notable of all the entries was the one made on March 17, 1926, when a party of surveyors from the U. S. General Land Office scaled the peak and established a survey corner there. They brought a transit and chain to the top and marked the corner with an iron post. One side of the bronze marker is lettered P.I.R., for Papago Indian Reservation,

and the other P. L., for Public Land. A fused edge of this marker indicates that it has been struck by lightning. The altitude of the peak is 7,740 feet. J. S. Hayward, scribe of this surveying party, pays high tribute to the courage and endurance of the members of his party, whose names are Otis O. Gould, B. Pilcher Brown, Earl Utter, William Kroll and Earl Endicott.

What They Left - IECOW

The final entry in the book so far reads, "Feb. 9, 1934. V. D. Smith, Forester, Walter C. Coe, Master Trail Builder and Claude C. Cornwall, Supervisor, today selected the site for the lookout cabin."

From the top of the peak we*looked out over the surrounding country. Haze, mountain ranges and the curvature of the earth prevented us from seeing the waters of the Gulf, but as the sun started toward the western ranges we could see the water shining out from twenty-seven charcos on the Papago Reservation, many of them new reservoirs constructed under Emergency Conservation Work.

Perhaps we felt that that was even better.

In the lookout tower will soon be installed an Osborne fire-finder and other apparatus and a communication system, and there will be an easy trail for the fire guard to go down and inform the Agency when "smokes" appear at almost any point on the reservation. Thanks to Indian Emergency Conservation Work, Mt. Baboquivari has at last been conquered and put to a service which will save many dollars as time goes on.

Truly - this is conservation at its peak!

* The writer apparently is one of the group which made the climb. Acknowledgement will be made if he cares to inform the Office of his identity.

"A GREAT MEMORIAL"

The following article is sent the Office by Mr. Byron P. Adams, a Hopi Indian. Mr. Adams speaks of Indian Emergency Conservation Work on the Hopi Reservation, and the figures that he presents are an interesting demonstration of what has resulted from the policy of putting Indians into jobs on Indian projects wherever possible.

We are nearing the date on which the Indian Emergency Conservation Work activities are to cease.* This has been an outstanding self-help proposition to Indians, under Government supervision. We (the Indians) seized the opportunity; we accepted the work to the limit of employment possibilities. Born overnight, as it were, the program had its imperfections at the beginning, but these were overcome and the work eventually reached equilibrium.

On this reservation employment possibilities came as salvation. The destructive depression was threatening human lives through hunger-suffering and physical pain. But this depression has been met with a negation through the rallying of our Indians to the self-help program to sustain human life, and to

establish on their own grounds the means through which their stock may survive, and their farming activities continue under improved conditions.

Never before in the history of Government supervision of Indian life has the Indian been consulted in such a way as in the present instance and actual work performed, finished and become a reality. The Indians' desires and wishes have been carefully and thoroughly weighed in connection with the numerous projects on this reservation. There were conflicts in some cases but they have amicably disappeared. And it is because the Indians' wishes have been recognized that they have felt the responsibility to do their part and at the same time earn means with which to carry through the cold winter their families.

Statement of Monthly Salary Expenditures

In figures we shall speak for ourselves. These figures

speak very well! It will be seen that 92.2% of the total ex-

*Depending on the procurement of funds, IECW will be extended until March 31, 1935.

penditure for labor has gone into the Indians' hands. This amount has been disbursed among 1,003 enrolled Indians. Of the

entire labor performed by enrolled men very few laborers proved unsatisfactory and were discharged, hence the salaries paid out represent value rendered.

1933	Indian Salaries (Monthly)	Non-Indian Salaries (Monthly)
July	2,734.28	1,244.38
August	19,556.21	2,289.20
September	42,762.08	2,207.15
October	40,436.80	2,233.18
November	22,693.60	2,087.60
December	<u>11,401.79</u>	<u>1,787.40</u>
Total	\$139,584.76	\$11,848.91

Well-Earned And Well-Spent

From observation and hearing conversations I find that moneys earned have been wisely and judiciously spent. There have been a few exceptions, but the majority have provided themselves with subsistence, paid

their small bills of long standing which traders had graciously extended to them, and provided needed clothing. Truly this one activity shall remain as a great memorial in Indian history.

RODENT CONTROL WORK AS A MEANS OF RANGE IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE IECW PROGRAM

Note. Rodent control measures under the Indian Emergency Conservation Work program were carried out on reservations throughout the West and Southwest last year, from the beginning of the program until the hibernation of the animals made further efforts impossible. The following two articles - one from the Plains Region and one from the Southwest - give an idea of the importance of this work to the Indian landholders, as well as some description of the methods used and difficulties encountered. The Biological Survey gave technical direction throughout.

I. WAR ON PRAIRIE DOGS IN THE PLAINS REGION UNDER IECW

By J. H. Mitchell

Supervisor, Indian Emergency Conservation Work

What if you owned 100,000 acres of good grazing land and 10,000 of these acres were rendered worse than useless by the infestation of the prairie dog, whose encroachments year after year increased the area of your devastated holdings?

This is representative of the acreage destroyed by rodents in many sections of the plains country. For example: out in the Dakotas, three Indian reservations - Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Cheyenne River - comprise 5,000,000 acres. And of these, 355,000 acres until now were in the sole possession of the prairie dog.

A Prairie Dog Town

More destructive than fire or flood are these denizens of the range.. Belonging to the

squirrel family, they resemble somewhat the common gray squirrel, they being only a little larger. They

live in the earth and about their burrows are thrown up mounds of dry soil. Grasses and roots are their foods, which they store for winter use. Once they infest an area nothing can grow there and neither man nor beast can subsist from these denuded acres.

Moreover, the forces of ero-

sion sweeps the prairie, grass will grow in the coming spring. Even when erosion begins its devastating work, good forage may be found beside the washes, but within the limits of a prairie dog town not a spear of grass remains. Once fertile acres become a desolate waste of unsightly mounds, like tombstones, beside which sit these tiny creatures,



Rodent Control Workers Cover a Swath Half A Mile Wide. 985,070 Acres Were Treated On Reservations Under IECW With A 95% Kill

sion have free play over this honeycombed soil. When fire

like sentinels, to guard their until now unmolested abodes.

Control Measures Under IECW

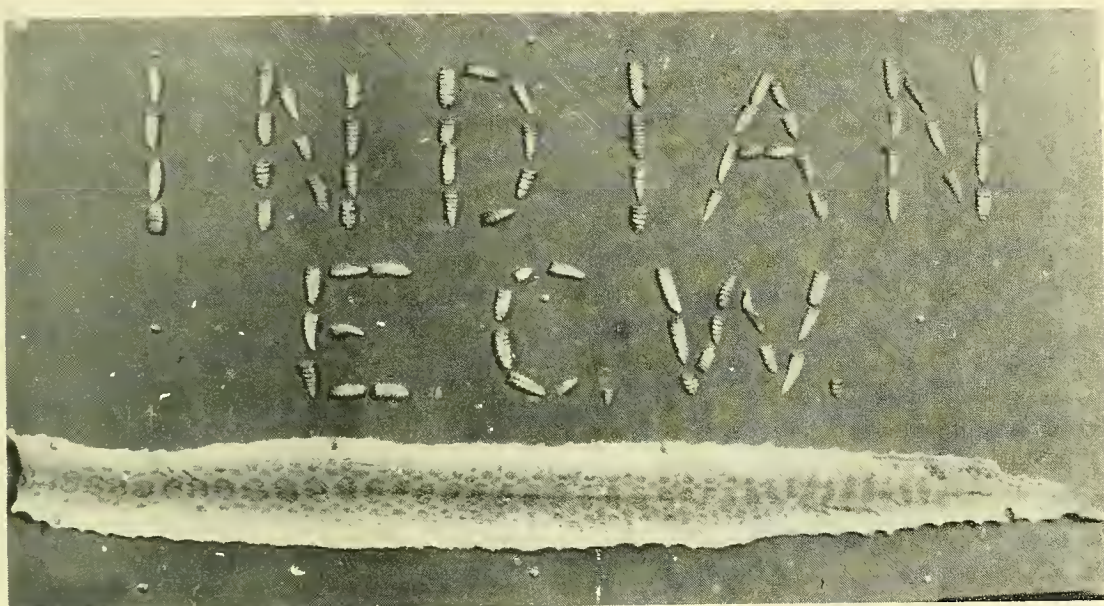
As one of its major projects, Indian Emergency Conservation Work program declared war on the prairie dog, and determined to restore this once fertile soil to the Indian tribes.

Surveys were made and crews of from four to eight men, under the supervision of a representative of the Biological Survey, organized for the campaign. A rodent control foreman and his

squad would take a quarter or a half section unit. Across this the foreman deployed his men from ten to twelve feet apart. They marched across the territory, scattering or placing a tablespoonful of oats previously poisoned with strychnine at the edge of each hole. In order to prevent birds or cattle from getting the poison great skill had to be used in plac-

and, under the weight of this burden, the crew marched across the dog town, then about faced, always in line formation, and returned along the edge of the baited strip.

Thus back and forth they went, day after day, until the infested strip was covered and the extermination was complete. It was a-



Design Made By Mr. Mitchell From Rattles Taken From A Three Day Kill Of Snakes Found By Dakota Indians On Rodent Control Work, IECW.

ing this bait.

Each man was equipped with a water bag and a poison bag furnished by the Biological Survey,

among the most laborious of all the Conservation Work projects, and it took a sturdy crew to stand up under the scorching sun and blistering winds of the Dakota prairies.

Rattlesnakes

On these Dakota reservations it was necessary to add another piece of equipment - a pointed

stick about four feet long. This was used to exterminate the rattlesnakes which make their

homes with the dogs. If anyone is zealous to hunt the rattlesnake, let him visit the prairie dog towns of South Dakota.

Usually this reptile will "warn" you by his rattle, familiar to the trained ear of every Indian. When, however, he is

coiled up in the hole of the prairie dog with his head even with the surface of the ground, he gives no notice in advance, but strikes and warns you afterward. The pointed stick is used to spear the snake, and draw him from his hole. The accompanying picture gives an idea of the numbers.

Possibilities Of Rodent Control Work

But back to the prairie dog. Can he really be exterminated? Experts from the Biological Survey inspected much of the area covered and pronounced it a 100 percent kill. Only a third of the infested area was covered last summer. Under the proposed ex-

tension of the Emergency Conservation Work program, the remaining acreage will also be rid of this age-old pest, and lands now totally unproductive will support thousands of cattle, bring an income for the owners, and justify once more the wisdom of our Conservation program.

II. IECW RODENT CONTROL ON THE SOUTHERN NAVAJO RESERVATION

By Donald E. Harbison

Forest Supervisor, Indian Service

On Southern Navajo the livestock industry is of major importance. In fact, it has been estimated that ninety percent of the income of the Navajos comes from livestock - principally from sheep and goat raising. That the Navajo ranges have been greatly overgrazed has been recognized for the past several years, and recently much attention has been given to their resulting serious condition; but on account of lack of funds little active effort toward correction had been made until the inauguration of the Indian Emergency Conservation Work program last summer.

The overgrazed condition has indeed reached grave proportions. It has directly caused the loss of many acres of good agricultural land, as well as grazing land, through the resultant working of erosion. And the terrific erosion damage on the Navajo Reservations has been the obvious result of an attempt to carry animals in numbers greatly in excess of the capacity of the range.

The Biological Survey Report

It has been understood for many years that rodents have been adding to the grazing burden and attempts have been made, in past years, to secure appropriations for the elimination of these animals, particularly prairie dogs. However, no success was had in securing funds with which to carry on a prairie dog control campaign.

In 1931, representatives

of the Biological Survey made a reconnaissance of the reservation with a view to determining the cost of eliminating prairie dogs. It was their opinion that, in order to carry on a three-year campaign, approximately \$285,000 would be needed. This is a vast amount of money and was impossible of procurement. The prairie dogs continued their damage of range and forage, unchecked.

Rodent Control Under The IECW Program

However, with the advent of Indian Emergency Conservation Work, a portion of our allotment was set aside for a prairie dog elimination campaign. Highly trained and experienced leaders were secured from the Biological Survey to conduct the work. These men were given a free hand to organize their own camps and crews, in the manner which they saw fit. Selected rolled oats, saccharine, strychnine and other ingredients were purchased through the Biological Laboratories. The grain and the poison were mixed daily by the men

of the Biological Survey. The distribution of the grain was made by Navajos, working on horseback, under the direction of a group foreman.

Camps were established at central points within the infested areas, from which the crews worked within a radius of twelve miles. Upon moving camp, the first procedure was to prebait the area with non-poisonous grain. This was done in order to accustom the prairie dogs to eating grain, so that when the poisoned portion was

put out they would immediately eat enough to have a fatal dosage. In this manner 60,938 acres were treated on which it is estimated that a ninety percent kill was obtained. To accomplish this 12,406 pounds of poisoned grain and 7,923 pounds of non-poisoned grain were used.

Areas selected for treatment were those on which we still have

a vestige of forage plants and those in which agriculture is being developed through the efforts of the Extension Division. The treated areas have not in all cases been contiguous. However, they have been laid out along topographic lines, so that natural barriers exist between them. In this way it is hoped to prevent invasion from distant, non-treated areas.

The Reaction Of The Indians

Prior to the beginning of our campaign a slight apprehension arose as to what the reaction of our Indians would be in regard to the distribution of poisoned grain on the ranges. The doubt was caused by something which happened here several years ago, when poisoned grain was put on the range by local people not thoroughly familiar with the technique of rodent eradication. As a result, some sheep were killed.

We were more or less fearful that the Indians would enter a protest against the renewal of this activity. However, through the efforts of local employees working through the Chapter Officers and the Chapter meetings, the subject of carrying on an extensive eradication campaign was thoroughly discussed, and the Indians were fully informed as to the manner in which it would be conducted. Their consent was gained by assurance that the

program would be under the direction of experts from the Biological Survey, and it is satisfactory to report that no losses of sheep have been heard of.

The Indians cooperated to the fullest extent in clearing the range of sheep, while the distributing of the poisoned grain was in process. All livestock was kept away from poisoned areas until the grain was consumed by the rodents or washed away by the rains. One or two cases were reported where domestic dogs had eaten prairie dogs killed by the poison, but, in view of the benefits accruing to the range, the Indians made no protests over the loss.

A gratifying feature of the campaign developed as the work proceeded. This was frequent visits of Indians to the office requesting that we carry on the activity in their territory. This in itself speaks for the value of the work.

The Results And The Future

While our means for carrying on this work were somewhat limited, it is believed that great beneficial results were obtained, and it is hoped that funds will be made available, in order that rodent control work may be carried out over the entire Navajo country. Since strenuous efforts are being made along other lines for the improvement of the Navajo ranges, it seems urgent that rodent control work should also be carried on until every prairie dog is killed.

In addition to prairie dog extermination, rodent control ac-

tivities should be extended to include pocket gophers, of which we have great numbers in some areas. This is particularly true of the high ranges, also of the cultivated areas. No attempt has yet been made to combat the pocket gopher because it is more specialized work than is the eradication of prairie dogs. It is believed, however, that under the guidance of the Survey experts, our Navajo people would become as proficient in the fight against gophers as they have been in freeing their ranges from the prairie dog. It is hoped that this phase of the work can be taken up in the coming season.

GETTING THROUGH THE WINTER IN IECW CAMPS - CROW RESERVATION

By Harold M. Lindstrom

Group Foreman, Indian Emergency Conservation Work

The first of January started a new phase in the Conservation Work on this Reservation. Most of the outlying camps were by this time closed, with the exception of Camps Number 7 and 8. Camp Number 5 - the Agency Camp - had absorbed all the single hands, and Camp Number 5a was then started, across the river from the Agency, for the purpose of accommodating the families and their teams.

Indian Camp Managers

In each of these camps, 5 and 5a, there is an Indian acting as Camp Manager. Harry Whiteman, a Crow, acts for the family camp, and Ray Wilson, a Choctaw, for the camp of single men.

This latter - the single camp - is on the Indian fair grounds and a portion of the exhibit building there was reconditioned to serve as a recreation center. It also serves as a classroom where Mrs. Dorothy Shane, Indian, conducts classes in cooking and sewing.

The stables on the grounds

were repaired and put into shape for the horses. A well was dug to furnish a water supply.

Camp Number 5 is housed in an old Agency school building. This structure had been previously repaired and put into shape to house all the single men.

The Agency gymnasium was turned over to Conservation Work, and is now used as a recreation center, but not only for the Conservation men, for the reservation in general takes advantage of it. Its liberal use is encouraged.

Week-End Conferences And Work

On Saturday, January 6th, a series of week-end confer-

ences was started. The subject matter pertains to Conservation

and to the reservation's economic problems. Attendance has been good and the subjects have been well received.

During the month, work was started on Project Number 20 - changing and straightening the channel of the Little Big Horn River adjacent to the Agency. This work progressed rapidly un-

Indian owned, have been used in this work, supplemented by two tractors for pulling stumps and tearing up the surface of the ground.

The last few days of the month saw the start of Project Number 22, the moving and rebuilding of the telephone lines from Crow Agency to St. Xavier



Fire Lookout Tower And Ranger Station Built By Crow
Indians Under I E C W

der Joe Pickett, Indian sub-foreman. The horses from Camp 5a,

Mission.

Rival Entertainments

A series of Thursday night entertainments was started; the family camp putting on the program one week and the single camp the next week. Considerable rivalry has been developed,

and as a consequence it has had its effect on the quality of the entertainments. A remarkable amount of natural talent has come to light. These programs are planned and carried out entirely by the Indians themselves.

INDIANS MANAGE AN INDIAN SAWMILL - MENOMINEE

By Ralph Fredenberg

The "New Deal" is being felt on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin.

For many years the Menominee Indians have had little voice in the operation of their lumber industry, in spite of the fact that during the period in question



Menominee Indians Active in Operating The Tribal Sawmill - James Boyd, C. J. Frechette, James Caldwell, J. F. Pecore, Joe Teller, Joe Whitney,

almost the entire livelihood of this group of people has been obtained through the sale of logs to outside lumber mills. But shortly after Commissioner Collier's induction into office, a greater share in the practical operation of the logging and lumbering industry on the Reservation was given to the Indians.

Indian Executives and Indian Loggers

In June, 1933, a destructive wind storm occurred which passed through the Menominee Indian Reservation, felling in excess of 3,000,000 feet of timber. This destruction occurred in random areas over a distance of approximately 25

the first winter over a period of ten years that the lumber mills at Neopit have not been obliged to close down for a brief period at least on account of a shortage of logs for manufacture.

The employment of Indians



Sleigh Haul, Menominee. Logs Also Come Out by Tractor And Truck.

miles, much of which was inaccessible to a highway system.

Under the policy of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of allowing Indians to conduct their own logging operations, this entire blow-down was salvaged under the administration of Indian executives and Indian loggers, in addition to which 8,000,000 feet of standing timber has been logged for manufacture in the Menominee Indian Mills. It is interesting to note at this point that this is

in the manufacturing plant has increased materially under the present administration and the entire production of logs and woods products is being handled by Menominees. Scientific logging is practiced and cutting is on a sustained yield basis.

If one might reasonably judge the future of the Reservation from the experience of the past seven months, in the not distant future it will reflect the ideals of serious-thinking students of the Indian problem.

The Civil Works Program Continues

By E. J. Armstrong

Assistant To The Commissioner of Indian Affairs

The Indian Service share of the Civil Works program, even on the reduced basis under which it is now operating, has helped greatly in meeting Indian relief problems. Not only has it taken care of many immediate relief needs by providing work for many Indian men and women - at last the women are permitted to share in the work programs too - but it has afforded a means of financing needed improvements to Indian property.

The Civil Works program has been especially welcome because it seems to "pick up the loose ends" and "fill in the cracks" that could not be reached through Public Works, Emergency Conservation Work or direct relief programs already under way. It is sufficiently elastic to be adapted to the

needs of any group of people and to almost any type of productive work. It has permitted work on small projects, close to the Indians' homes, work on projects in which the Indian women could join - even the employment of additional clerical help in school and agency offices.

The Curtailed Program

The original Indian Service allocation for labor and material under the first half of the Civil Works program was almost \$1,300,000, of which about eighty-five percent was for labor and fifteen percent for materials. The allocation for the second period is about half of that amount with the

ratio of labor to materials remaining the same. This curtailment was a heavy blow. However, by considering the relief needs of the entire Indian population as a whole and making the percentage of reduction greater where the needs were less acute or other forms of relief were available, the

the blow has been softened.
The program in the Plains country, and other areas particularly hard hit by general economic conditions, lack of employment, drought, grasshoppers,

or other troubles, has continued with little or no curtailment. The scope of the program in other sections has necessarily been sharply curtailed.

* * * * *

SOME ADDITIONAL NURSING PERSONNEL

The plea made before Congress for additional nursing personnel in Indian Service hospitals resulted in some measure of relief for the present over-crowded conditions through the authorization of \$75,000 of the impounded balance of the health appropriation for the present fiscal year. In effect, the amount provided for the next fiscal year is an increase over the amount of the original budget estimate. In explaining this increase to Congress, the conferees on the Interior Department Appropriation Bill said "this increase is for the employment of additional nurses".

While the Service will not be able to remedy all unsatisfactory nursing conditions in the several hospitals, some of the worst situations can be taken care of. The action taken by Congress is an indication of its interest in and desire to help the Indian medical service.

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THE COVER PAGE. The cover picture of this issue of INDIANS AT WORK is a Logging Scene from Rocky Boy's.

INDIANS FENCE THEIR RANGES WHEN WINTER CURTAILS OTHER IECW ACTIVITIES. OVER 2,000 MILES OF FENCE BUILT UNDER IECW BY JANUARY 1, 1934



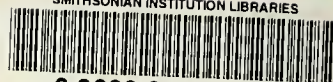
Well Braced Corner On Stock Pasture Fence. Part of Range Improvement Program, Tongue River. Work Done By IECW Crews.

Drift Fence On High Range, Stake And Rider Model. Work Done By IECW Crews, Shoshone.



Completing Four Wire Fence, Walker River. Range Improvement Program, IECW.

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